



knights of columbus

www.kofc14084.org

St Stephen Council #14084

Knightly News

Volume 3

January 2009

Number 7



In Memory of Sir Knight John Joyce

Born: February 8, 1936 Died: January 1, 2009



Officers

Grand Knight

Julio Alvarez, Jr

Deputy Grand Knight

Chuck Lusky

Chancellor

Jerry Westbrook

Warden

Greg Celestan

Treasurer

John Sepessy

Advocate

Jim Kelly

Recorder

Paul Crescimone

Inside Guard

John Columbia III

Outside Guard

Dan Laughman

Anthony Giaccone

Trustees

Three Years- *Rick Hughes, PGK*

Two Years—*Nick Turco, PGK*

One Year-*Ed Milius, PGK*

Field Agents

Thomas P. Cummings III

813-625-2444

Email: *Thomas.Cummings@kofc.org*

Directors & Chairs

Membership Director

Darin O'Neal

Program Director

Chuck Lusky

Church Committee

Matt Preszler

Community Committee

Herb Swoope

Council Committee

Scott Sheffield

Family Committee

John Montaldo

Youth Committee

Tom Bailey

Degree Team Captain

Rick Hughes

Public Relations

Greg Grambor

RJS Concessions Contact

Julio Alvarez, Jr.

Newsletter Editor

Nick Turco

Columbian Squires Counselors

Rob Fisher

Tom Bailey

Resource Links

Council Web Site

www.kofc14084.org

Florida State Council

www.floridastatecouncil.com

Supreme Council:

www.kofc.org



Grand Knight's Report

Julio Alvarez, Jr
Julio Alvarez 662-1845
jalvarez8@tampabay.rr.com

To my Brother Knights *and your Families*:

Happy New Year! Unfortunately, we started the year with the sad loss of our beloved Brother, Sir Knight John Joyce. However, I cannot help to think how in his passing I was able to experience one of the proudest moments in my time as a Knight of Columbus. John and Venerable Fr Michael J. McGivney are certainly smiling at the demonstration of Unity and Fraternity observed at St Stephen Catholic Church on the evening of January 7 (for the Wake) and on January 8 (for the Funeral Mass). The very first words out of the mouths of every single Knight I saw (and there were well over 100 members present throughout the evening of the Wake) were "how can I help."

The strength and power of Unity was clearly evident as we raised our voices together and prayed the Holy Rosary of our Lady led by Brothers (S/K) Jim Bollinger, (S/K) Rob Fisher, Squire Connor Hickie, Francis Xavier and (S/K) Scott Sheffield. One of the most moving events occurred at the presentation of the Resolution of Condolence to Rita, where all 22 Sir Knights in Regalia and all attending Brother Knights and Families stood and came forward encircling John and Rita with a physical demonstration of love and solidarity – I'm certain those attending will never forget this moment. Finally, at the end of the evening, the few remaining people in the Church comprised of over 40 Brother Knights, who with the Color Corps, lined the front entrance of the Church, from the door to the street, and stood in silent honor to John as he was carried out by the Color Corps Pall Bearers.

Brother Sir Knight Jerry Westbrook's eulogy at the Funeral Mass on Wednesday morning was an exceptionally beautiful tribute to a wonderful man who epitomized the principles espoused by the Order. It was a personal honor to serve as a Pall Bearer and carry my Brother; and to have had the opportunity to experience, at the folding of the Flag John was so proud to serve under, when at the instant of the playing of Taps, on a cloudy rainy afternoon, to witness the sun suddenly break through the clouds and shine warmly on John and on our faces for a few brief moments and reminding us of God's presence,

his love, and most importantly his promise made possible through the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ!

As we proceed through the remainder of this month, if you have not done so, please complete the Fraternal Survey Online by going on our website at www.kofc14084.org. I cannot over-emphasize how important this survey is to our Order and it must be completed by the 25th of this Month so that we can consolidate and submit our data to Supreme by the 31st. There will not be a Faith and Morals Session this month; instead on Wednesday, Jan 21st we will have an early in the month Officers/Service Program Directors Planning Meeting at the Church from 6:30 to 8:00 PM. We will also be conducting our Semi-Annual Audit on the 21st at 6 pm; however, this applies only to our Financial Secretary, Treasure, our Trustees, Deputy Grand Knight and me.

Please inform your wives or any women of the parish who might be interested to attend the second Organizational Meeting of the Columbiettes Auxiliary on Friday, January 30th, from 6:30 to 7:30 pm at St Stephen Catholic Church. This will be a Wine & Cheese Social hosted by the Knights (guys we will serve but not bother the ladies) with the purpose of providing additional information to attendees regarding the Columbiettes Organization, gauge interest, and determine the feasibility and possibly develop a timeline towards establishing an Auxiliary here at St Stephen. Ms Dale Zgurszynski, from Florida State Columbiettes will once again be visiting with the ladies accompanied by the District Deputy who covers our area. Finally, remember that the Spring Membership Blitz and our Handicapped Charities (Tootsie Roll) Drive are both right around the corner.

Additionally, for those who recruit one new member in their first year as a Knight or those who are outside that window who recruit two new members and complete the requirements to earn the SHINING ARMOR AWARD between 1 July 2008 and 30 June 2009 – you could put us in the hunt for earning a \$500 award being offered by Fraternal Agents by having the largest number of awarded Shining Armor Awards in the Region.



Grand Knight's Report cont'd

The requirements are found on the Shining Armor Card for new members and on our Council Web-site (www.kofc14084) for members outside the one-year window. REMEMBER - we are not about growing numbers for the sake of numbers – we need to have a base of Catholic men and families who are committed to our faith, church and community to serve our parish, and in particular to be an integral part of the future building

of our new house of worship – our Church....on the Riverview property.
Have a Great Month!

Fraternally,

Julio
Grand Knight 14084

Calendar of Events

Jan 21	Faith and Morals Program	6:30 PM	
Jan 22	March for Life	Washington DC	
Jan 30	Columbiettes Meeting	6:30 PM	Church MPR
Feb 1	Super Bowl	RJS Stadium	9:00 AM Departure
Feb 4	Monthly Business Meeting	8:00 PM	Church MPR
Feb 7	3rd Degree Exemplification		St. Petersburg Cathedral
Feb 8	Corporate Communion (tentative)	8:00 AM-	followed by breakfast at Ruby Tuesday
Feb 13	Fourth Degree Assembly Meeting	6:30 PM	
Feb 14	Respect Life Rosary	5:45 AM	
Feb 18	Faith and Morals Meeting	6:30 PM	Church MPR
Feb 20	Family Social	6:30 PM	Church MPR
Feb 21	1st Degree Exemplification	9 :00 AM	St Stephen School
Feb 25	Ash Wednesday		
Feb 28-Mar 1	Tootsie Roll Campaign—Church		
Feb 28	3rd Degree Exemplification	Candidates 11:00	Ceremony at 1:00 Lakeland
Mar 4	Monthly Business Meeting	8:00 PM	Church MPR
Mar 7-8	Tootsie Roll Campaign—Walmart		
Mar 10	1st Degree Exemplification	7:30 PM	Nativity
Mar 13	Fourth Degree Assembly Meeting	6:30 PM	
Mar 18	Faith and Morals Meeting	6:30 PM	St. Stephen School
Mar 20	Family Social	6:30 PM	Church MPR
Mar 21	2nd Degree Exemplification	9:00 AM	St. Stephen School
Mar 21-22	Christ Renews His Parish		



Chaplain's Report

Rev Bill Swengros

689-4900

pastor@ststephencatholic.org



My Brother Knights,

This past week we said farewell to our friend and brother Knight, John Joyce. He was a tremendous man of God and an inspiration to us all. In so many ways, he embodied what it means to be a true Knight of Christ. He was a man for others. While many in his physical condition would have been content to sit by the sidelines, he rolled up his sleeves and was determined to make a difference. He was involved in almost every dimension of our parish life and was active in our Council from its inception.

While we all have unique memories of John, my fondest memories are of John, the family man. He loved Rita and his family with all of his heart. And there was always room for more. Almost every week, John and Rita would introduce yet another person as an adopted son or daughter. I for one, felt blessed to be called one of his adopted sons.

John and Rita went to Mass on New Year's Eve. After a quiet evening together, they awoke the next morning to call their family to wish them a Happy New Year and to tell them they were loved. After they had finished, the Lord called John home.

John died as he lived. With love in his heart and a desire to reach out to others.

May the same be said of each of us.

Brother Knight, good and faithful servant, thank you for the gift of our friendship and your prayerful support and for all you did for me, our parish, and our Council. May your soul and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.

Fr. Bill Swengros
Chaplain

Keep in our Prayers

- Herb Swoope with be undergoing surgery on January 19
- For Shawn Ryan who's grandfather recently passed away.
- For a Friend, Jim Evans, who is elderly and about to undergo a serious surgery in one of his legs in order to save it due to very circulation problems.
- For Steve Bapp and his family who are experiencing a difficult personal situation
- For Rick Hughes and his family as they continue to deal with their difficult, personal, family situation
- For Brother Tom Bailey and his continued recovery.
- Mike Seifert who's father is recovering from injuries in an automobile accident
- Bonnie Cummings who is overcoming an illness
- Emily Alverz who is recovering from surgery
- For the Soul of Brother John Joyce and for his widow, Rita and their family



Membership Report



promptly at 1:00 pm .

Dress code: Coats and ties are required, no shorts allowed.

02-21-2009 We have a **First Degree Exemplification** at St Stephen School **Dress Code is Casual** the Ceremony begins at 9:00 am. Sponsors must have there applicants there by 7:45 a.m. Questions about Admissions should be directed to our Admissions Coordination Team Leader, **Sir Knight Bill Queenan** at Email: admissions@kofc14084.org, Phone: **833-8137**.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO WORK ON YOUR ADVANCEMENT REQUIREMENTS!

Please congratulate Francis Mejia, Edward Lugo, Gerald Harpole, Bruce Czaja, Jorge Arnoldson and our seminarian Jonathan Stephanz who became a Knights in our Council on December 20, 2008 at the Exemplification held at St. Stephen School, and Mike Bramble who became a Knight January 13, 2009 at Nativity Catholic Church.

There will be a **Third Degree Exemplification** on Saturday February 7th, 2009 hosted by District Number 28, at St. Jude the Apostle Council 14178, 5815 5th Avenue N, St. Petersburg, Fla. 33710.

Candidates are to report between 11:00 am and 12:00 noon with a current 2nd Degree membership card in order to be eligible to take the 3rd degree. The card must be signed and the degree will start

Being a Knight means being involved and learning about our Order, our Principles, and most importantly... learning to better practice our Faith. I encourage each and every one of you, whether working towards a degree or sponsoring a potential Candidate, to make the effort to grow as a Knight by taking an active part in achieving the requirements to advancement in the Order.

Finally, please continue your efforts to build the Council and the Order by recruiting **quality** Catholic Gentlemen with the energy and spirit to make a difference in our Community.

Fraternally,
Darin

Congratulations

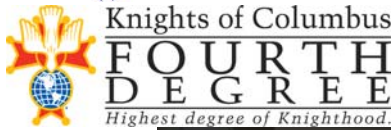
Knight of the Month—Chris Lewis

for his support of Knight activities. Twice this past year, he has hosted Knights at his restaurant after key events. Most recently, he provided lunch to all those who attended the Christmas party with the Vets.



Family of the Month—Herb Swoope

for coordinating the activities for the Christmas party at the VA hospital and his unwavering support for veterans in need



Fourth degree team escorts Sir Knight John Joyce from the church

Fraternal Agent's Report

The final numbers are not yet complete; but, it looks like another record year for Insurance, Annuities and Long Term Care policies for the Knights of Columbus. In a year when many firms had strong drops in their credit ratings, the KofC maintained its A++ and AAA ratings with A.M. Best and Standard and Poors.

Cash values in our Whole Life policies benefited from a greater than 8% dividend and our safe and secure annuities earned between 4% and 4.75%. How about some comparisons? If you started the year with \$100,000, what would it look like at year's end? As of Dec 30th:

	DOW	S&P 500	Russell 2000	Wilshire 5000	KofC Annuity
1/1/2008 Value	\$100K	\$100K	\$100K	\$100K	\$100K
Return	-35%	-39%	-37%	-40%	+4.75%
12/30/2008 Value	\$65K	\$61K	\$63K	\$60K	\$104,750

WARNING: If you have a Universal or Variable Policy, call their 800 number and ask for a 20 Year Illustration. It will detail the cash value, when it will erode and when your policy is expected to lapse.

REMEMBER: The Knights of Columbus Whole Life policies have GUARANTEED 1) death benefits, 2) cash value and 3) premiums. Fr. McGivney wanted our widows and children to have a secure future. We have kept that Vision alive for 126 years.

Start the New Year off on the right foot, call for an appointment to review your existing policies.

Happy New Year,



Deputy Grand Knight Report

Brothers,

The month of January is dedicated to Pro-Life. There are many activities that you can get involved in this month. First this Saturday the 10th at 5:45 AM I will be driving, brother knights to the All Women's Clinic on Kennedy in Tampa. We will be meting at the church portico and leaving at 5:45 AM. See you there.

A very important piece of legislation is coming up for a vote before our new congress and president. It's the Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA). It is the most radical pro-abortion legislation in U.S. history. The progress made by the pro-life movement over the past 35 years in limiting and reducing abortions through modest regulations could vanish overnight. There will be pre-paid post cards on the seats at church this Sunday that you can fill out and mail to our representatives in congress telling them to vote this bill down. We need your support Brother Knights. Also Senator Bill Nelson looks like he is in favor of this bill. Please get the word to him where you stand on this important issue. To send a message to Senator Nelson, please use the form on his Web site: <http://billnelson.senate.gov/contact/index.cfm#email>

On January 16th at 9 AM at church 200 white crosses will be planted in front of church on Bell Shoals. This work is light duty. The Pro-Life team has this down to a science. This activity will be followed up on Saturday the 17th at 9 AM at the school. Where 200 crosses will be planted the same way. They will have power tools to dig the holes and sand to fill back in. Bring a small shovel to put the sand in the small holes. Really something like a tamper or screw driver handle helps to fill in the holes really well. Pails and buckets would be nice to have to. Also after all the Masses that weekend (1/17th-18th) the Respect Life group will be collecting dollars for life for the Life Care of Brandon. The Wednesday night Mass on January 21 will be for Pro-Life. Stop by and show your support.

Lastly, there are Marches for life in Tampa in front of the Hillsborough Courthouse on January 22 from Noon to One PM. On the same day there is a march in Washington, DC. The first

march this month is in St Augustine on Saturday, January 17th. For more information visit the March for Life website <http://www.marchforlifestaugustine.com>

Committee Reports

Youth Activities

Brothers & Squires,

I first want to say what an incredible group of "Future Knights" that we have in our Columbian Squires organization. During November and December the Squires worked three weekends to sell Christmas cards and magnets for "Keep Christ in Christmas". Five of the squires also attended the 4th Degree Assembly sponsored visit to the VA where the Christmas spirit was spread to all. If this wasn't enough several squires again attended our council sponsored Christmas dinner, where the Mowery brothers were presented with the Family of the Month award

As soon as Christmas was over Tom Bailey and I got together to schedule the events for the next six months. We have come up with a lot of fun and educational events for this young energetic group. This was met with a lot of enthusiasm during our first Columbian Squires Business meeting on Friday the 9th, where 4 new Committee leaders were appointed to the Circle, Service, Spiritual and Membership committees.

In addition I was also blessed with additional help at the Business meeting. I would like to thank Pedro Torres Jr., John Berrie and Gerry Harpole for stepping up to help out at the meetings and other Squires events. I would also like to thank Jim Whiteman and David Hickey for their continued efforts for with the Squires.

Esto Dignus
Brother Bob



Committee Reports

Council Activities

CHRISTMAS WITH OUR VETERANS

The Knights Of Columbus Assembly 1850 visited the Haley Cove Nursing Home on December 13, 2008 to show respect for those brave men and women that gave it all to defend our Freedom so that we Americans have what we have today. Freedom isn't Free it comes with a cost. There are a total of eighty Veterans located at the Haley Cove Nursing home. Nobody was left behind, all Veterans receives gifts, pizza, wings, drinks, and singing Christmas songs by the children. The Knights of Columbus Assembly 1850 and local councils had more than one Hundred Knights and family members attend this event. We would like to share one of many Veterans stories.

"The price of freedom" The motto in front of Haley House is "The price of freedom is visible here", referring to the many veterans, both young and old, who are recovering here from their wounds "K of C" with their families raised the spirits of these brave men and women. To be present was to know just how important these

visits are to our heroes. No substitute is possible for the giving of one's time to such a worthy cause. A man, a survivor of the "Batman death march" in 1942 was present and permitted us an interview. Al Nay Mick, aka, "Big Al" was on that dreadful march, driven, without quarter. Twenty two thousand men started that march, shortly after their capture in the Philippines, by the Japanese. Less than half reached the POW camp. Al was one, who did. He spent three and one half years, as a prisoner there, but he made it. He said "I had to go". When asked how he felt about his service. Many in Al's unit, the 192nd tank battalion, US Army, perished. He lived day to day by stealing food scraps and other garbage from his captors. Al, being a man of faith, "prayed every night". He asked God to "bring me back to do some good. "No one can tell Al about the power of prayer. Al Hayrick's story represents the true spirit of sacrifice. This is only one story from a man in this hospital. There are many men and woman in like situations across the country. We won't forget them. We must not! Bishop CB McLaughlin's Assembly 1850 is committed to by monthly visits to our Vets at the hospital. We feel it is the least we can do.

God Bless
Herbert Swoope

